

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR
SUBJECT: USSR: 1977 AGRICULTURAL RESULTS

1. SUMMARY: 1977 AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE REPORTED IN WEEKEND PRESS SHOWS ABOVE-PLAN RESULTS IN THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, AND BELOW-PLAN OUTTURN OF ALL MAJOR CROPS EXCEPT COTTON AND RICE. BUILDUP IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS GIVES FAVORABLE CAST TO 1978 OUTLOOK IF FEED SUPPLIES CAN BE MAINTAINED. PRESS REPORT CONTAINS SOME SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS OF 1976 DATA, E.G., BOOSTING MEAT PRODUCTION FROM 13.4 TO 13.6 MILLION TONS. REPORT ALSO SHOWS CONTINUING PROBLEMS ON THE INPUT SIDE AS DELIVERY OF FARM MACHINERY AND MINERAL FERTILIZERS FELL SHORT OF PLAN END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR 1977 AGRICULTURAL RESULTS, PUBLISHED IN WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS, ARE AS FOLLOWS (WITH PLAN COMPARISON):

COMMODITY	1976	1977 PLAN	1977 ACTUAL
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MILLION METRIC TONS

GRAIN, OF WHICH	223.8	213.3	195.5
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WHEAT	97	NA	92
CORN	10	NA	11
RICE	2.0	NA	2.2
COTTON	8.28	8.35	8.76
SUGARBEETS	99.9	95.6	93.3
SUNFLOWER SEEDS		5.28	7.52 5.87
POTATOES	85.1	101.0	83.4

VEGETABLES	25.0	27.1	23.0
MEAT (SLAUGHTER WT.)	13.6	14.5	14.8
MILK	89.7	92.0	94.8
EGGS (BILLION PIECES)	56.2	58.2	61.0
WOOL (THOUS. TONS)	435.5	NA	458.0

3. JANUARY 1 LIVESTOCK INVENTORIES WERE REPORTED AS FOLLOWS
(MILLION HEAD):

CLASS	TOTAL		SOCIALIZED		PRIVATE	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
CATTLE	110.3	112.5	87.5	89.3	22.8	23.2
COWS	42.0	42.6	28.6	29.3	13.4	13.3
PIGS	63.1	70.3	51.3	55.6	11.8	14.7
SHEEP/GOATS	145.3	146.2	116.5	117.3	28.8	28.9

4. CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE TOTALED 32.9 BILLION RUBLES,
OF WHICH 21.9 WERE STATE FUNDS. ABOUT 6.9 BILLION WAS COMMITTED TO
LAND IMPROVEMENT.

5. OFF-FARM INPUTS DELIVERED TO AGRICULTURE INCLUDED 77 MILLION
TONS OF MINERAL FERTILIZERS, 2.8 MILLION TONS OF FEED ADDITIVES,
364 THOUSAND TRACTORS, 265 THOUSAND TRUCKS, AND 101 THOUSAND
GRAIN COMBINES.

6. STATE PROCUREMENTS OF LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS WERE AS FOLLOWS
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(MILLION TONS):

ITEM	1976	1977
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY		
(IN LIVE WT.)	15.1	16.3
(IN SLAUGHTER WT.)	9.3	10.3
MILK	56.2	60.8
EGGS (BILLION PIECES)	32.9	36.8

7. GROSS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT INCREASED BY 3.5 BILLION RUBLES
WHEN COMPARED WITH 1976.

8. COMMENT: MAJOR SURPRISE WAS ACHIEVEMENT OF 1977 MEAT GOAL
AS PREDICTED BY BREZHNEV. ALTHOUGH DECEMBER DATA ON
CENTRALIZED SLAUGHTER IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, OVERALL 1977 MEAT
RESULTS APPEAR TO HAVE REQUIRED ABOVE-NORMAL PARTICIPATION BY
THE NONCENTRALIZED AND PRIVATE SECTORS. ACHIEVEMENT OF MILK
AND EGG GOALS WERE AS EXPECTED, AND PUT 1978 TARGETS FOR THESE
COMMODITIES WITHIN COMFORTABLE REACH.

9. MOST SIGNIFICANT CROP SHORTFALLS WERE, AS ALREADY REVEALED,
GRAIN AND SUNFLOWERS. RECORD UKRAINIAN PRODUCTION (48.6 MILLION

TONS) SAVED THE 1977 GRAIN CROP ON RECORD, GRAIN OUTPUT FELL FAR SHORT

OF NEEDS. THE BEST THAT CAN BE SAID FOR SUNFLOWERS IS THAT EVEN AT 21 PERCENT BELOW PLAN IT WAS THE BEST CROP IN THREE BLIGHTED YEARS. SUGARBEET PRODUCTION, THOUGH 6.6 PERCENT BELOW THE 1976 RECORD, MAY STILL RESULT IN A LARGER OUTTURN OF SUGAR DUE TO MUCH BETTER HARVEST CONDITIONS AND REDUCED FARM-TO-FACTORY LOSSES. BY FAR THE BRIGHTEST SPOTS WERE THE IRRIGATED CROPS, COTTON AND RICE. COTTON PRODUCTION WAS FIVE PERCENT ABOVE PLAN AND 14 PERCENT ABOVE THE NINTH PLAN AVERAGE. RICE PRODUCTION EXCEEDED 1971-75 RESULTS BY AT LEAST 26 PERCENT.

10. BELOW-PLAN RESULTS ON THE INPUT SIDE ALSO CONTINUED TO AFFECT THE GRICULTURAL SECTOR. TRACTOR DELIVERIES WERE ACTUALLY BELOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE 1976 LEVEL, AND OTHER CATEGORIES OF FARM MACHINERY WERE UP ONLY marginally. FERTILIZER SUPPLIES, WHILE JUST SLIGHTLY BELOW THE REDUCED 1977 PLAN, DID NOT HOLD MUCH PROMISE THAT THE 1976-80 (ANNUAL AVERAGE) GOAL OF 93.4 MILLION TONS CAN BE ACHIEVED.
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